

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 125

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Craig Eiland has rendered exceptional
2 service to residents of the Lone Star State throughout a nearly
3 two-decade-long tenure in the Texas House of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, First elected in 1994, Representative Eiland has
5 earned the high regard of colleagues and constituents alike for his
6 well-informed, incisive leadership and his ability to work across
7 the aisle; he demonstrated those virtues in abundance in the wake of
8 Hurricane Ike, which devastated Galveston and Chambers Counties in
9 September 2008; joining a delegation to Washington, D.C., he
10 testified about the recovery needs of the Gulf Coast before the
11 U.S. Senate, and he served on the Governor's Commission for
12 Disaster Recovery; he also chaired the Hurricane Subcommittee of
13 the Texas House Appropriations Committee and served on the Select
14 Committee on Hurricane Ike Devastation; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Eiland played a crucial role in
16 securing the resources to rebuild communities, restore beaches, and
17 repair colleges and public schools; moreover, he was instrumental
18 in keeping The University of Texas Medical Branch, the largest
19 employer on Galveston Island, in the city where it was established
20 more than 130 years ago; ultimately, investment in recovery totaled
21 well over \$1 billion, including matching funds from private sources
22 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; he has tirelessly
23 advocated for coastal homeowners as well, working to ensure that
24 resources will be available to them following future disasters in

1 hurricane-prone counties; and

2 WHEREAS, Appointed speaker pro tempore for the 81st Texas
3 Legislature, Representative Eiland also won praise for his
4 efficient management of the local and consent calendar that
5 session, which sped along at a handy clip that was often enhanced by
6 the thunderous accompaniment of one of his children on the gavel;
7 widely admired for his ability to keep the legislative process on
8 track during debate on a highly contentious issue, he is also noted
9 for his expertise in insurance matters and budget issues, and he has
10 served four terms as vice chair of the House Insurance Committee and
11 six terms as a valued member of the House Appropriations Committee;
12 he has further served as chair of the Pensions and Investments
13 Committee and as vice chair of the Juvenile Justice and Family
14 Issues Committee, the Election Contests Select Committees in 2003
15 and 2005, and the Election Contest District 48 Select Committee in
16 2011, among many other committee assignments; and

17 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan has twice been ranked as one of
18 the "Ten Best Legislators" by *Texas Monthly* magazine, and he has
19 been named Citizen of the Year by the *Galveston County Daily News*;
20 the recipient of numerous accolades, he has been selected as
21 Legislator of the Year by such organizations as the Texas Hospital
22 Association, the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, and the
23 United Ways of Texas, and he has been accorded the President's Award
24 by the Texas Public Health Association; the Bay Area Houston
25 Economic Partnership gave him its 2010 Quasar Award in recognition
26 of his contributions to the region's recovery from one of the
27 nation's worst natural disasters; and

1 WHEREAS, Born in 1962, Representative Eiland grew up in West
2 Texas and lettered in football at Baylor University, where he
3 completed his bachelor's degree in business administration; he went
4 on to graduate from Baylor Law School and briefly worked on a cattle
5 ranch in the Australian outback before settling in Galveston and
6 joining the state's oldest law firm, Mills, Shirley, Eckel &
7 Bassett; he was subsequently employed by nationally known Houston
8 attorney Ernest H. Cannon; he opened his own practice in 1992, and
9 today his firm has offices in Galveston and Houston and represents
10 clients in complex litigation in cities across the nation and in a
11 number of foreign countries; the Baylor Law School chose him as
12 Young Lawyer of the Year in 1999, and he has been awarded membership
13 in the American Board of Trial Advocates and the American
14 Association for Justice; and

15 WHEREAS, Craig Eiland and his wife, Melissa, are the proud
16 parents of four children, Blake, Tucker, Gray, and Delaney, who
17 have all exhibited precocious aplomb in wielding the parliamentary
18 gavel; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Eiland has announced that he is
20 retiring from the House of Representatives at the end of his 10th
21 term, to the delight of his family and the dismay of his colleagues,
22 who will miss his expertise, good humor, and proven ability to play
23 well with others; and

24 WHEREAS, Through his steadfast commitment to bettering the
25 lives of his fellow citizens, Craig Eiland has greatly benefited
26 the people of Texas and has contributed immeasurably to the
27 vitality of Gulf Coast communities; as he prepares to embark on the

1 next chapter of his life, he takes with him the friendship of all
2 who have been privileged to serve alongside him and who take
3 pleasure in honoring him for a job exceedingly well done; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
6 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend the Honorable Craig
7 Eiland for his exemplary public service and extend to him warmest
8 best wishes for continued success and much happiness; and, be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for Representative Eiland as an expression of high regard
12 by the Texas House of Representatives.